

historical judgment on the character and achievements of Henry St. John that the passage really interests us, but as a statement of the ideal and an anticipation of the career of Benjamin Disraeli. The writer proceeds at 01100 to show the need for another Bolingbroke in the circumstances of the hour. The Tories have just carried England through a perilous age of war and revolution, and are burdened in consequence with an accretion of those accidental qualities which are inseparable from all political parties that have long been in power.

If the "Whigs at this moment" are pursuing the same desperate and determined policy that they prosecuted so vigorously a century back, it will be well for their rivals to adopt the same cautious yet energetic system of conduct which, developed at the same period by the genius of a Bolingbroke, led in due season to the administration of a Pitt. In the conduct of the Tory party at this moment, it appears to me that there are three points to the furtherance of which we should principally apply ourselves: 1st. That the real character and nature of Toryism should be generally and deeply comprehended; 2ndly. That Toryism should be divested of all those qualities which are adventitious and not essential, and which, having been produced by that course of circumstances which are constantly changing, become in time obsolete, inconvenient, and by the dexterous misrepresentation of our opponents even odious; 3rdly. That the efficient organisation of the party should be secured and maintained.¹

There surely is a statement of the task Disraeli proposed to himself. 'I do not think, he adds, 'there ever was a period in our history when the English nation was so unmanly Tory in feeling as at the present moment; but the Reform Act has placed the power of the country in the hands of a small body of persons hostile to the nation, and therefore there is no due proportion between the social and the political power of the national party.' To this partial and sectarian, character of the constituency of 1832 he is never tired of recurring. 'I am not one of those,' he tells us elsewhere in a passage

1 p. 192.